

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, EI
SUBJECT: IRISH OPPOSITION LEADER SPEAKS OUT AGAINST
REPORT OF LYNCH TRIP

REF: SCHALLER/RENDAHL TELECON, MAY 31, 1978

1. FINE GAEL OPPOSITION LEADER GARRET FITZGERALD
COMPLIMENTED THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE SUCCESS OF
HIS RECENT TRIP TO THE U.S. IN A PARLIAMENTARY
EXCHANGE IN THE DAIL YESTERDAY. FITZGERALD ALSO
TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONDEMN AN ARTICLE
REPRINTED IN THE IRISH PRESS FROM THE LONDON EVENING
STANDARD. THIS CONDEMNATION WAS PRINTED ON THE FRONT
PAGE OF THE IRISH PRESS TODAY, MAY 31 UNDER THE
HEADLINE "FITZGERALD CONDEMNS FALSE ARTICLE". STORY
IS QUOTED BELOW IN FULL.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: AN ARTICLE ON THE AD HOC COMMITTEE
ON IRISH AFFAIRS LED BY MARIO BIAGGI, THE NEW YORK
CONGRESSMAN, WHICH APPEARED IN THE LONDON EVENING
STANDARD AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REPRINTED IN THE IRISH
PRESS, WAS DESCRIBED IN THE DAIL YESTERDAY BY THE
FINE GAEL LEADER, DR. FITZGERALD, AS "FALSE AND
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MALICIOUS."

THE REPORT, WRITTEN BY JEREMY CAMPBELL, THE EVENING
STANDARD'S MAN IN WASHINGTON, SAID THAT THE AD HOC
COMMITTEE, "ONCE A RATHER MARGINAL AND LAUGHABLE BODY,
NOW BOASTS 105 CONGRESSMEN AS MEMBERS," AND WENT ON:
"WHEN IT IS ATTACKED THE AD HOC COMMITTEE REACTS IN

A PECULIAR WAY - IT GROWS.

"SOME MONTHS AGO IRISH PRIME MINISTER JACK LYNCH ROASTED IT IN A SCATHING SPEECH. AT ONCE MEMBERSHIP JUMPED 20 PER CENT. NOW MR. LYNCH HAS REPEATED THE CRITICISM DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT AND MAY PERFORM THE SAME SERVICE ALL OVER AGAIN."

IN THE DAIL DR. FITZGERALD CONGRATULATED THE TAOISEACH, MR. LYNCH, ON THE FIRMNESS OF HIS EFFORTS DURING HIS U.S. VISIT TO CLARIFY THE POSITION IN REGARD TO NORTHERN IRELAND, AND HE DEPLORED WHAT HE CALLED A "FALSE AND MALICIOUS" REPORT IN AN IRISH NEWSPAPER WHICH SUGGESTED THAT MR. LYNCH'S STAND HAD GIVEN INCREASED SUPPORT TO CONGRESSMAN'S BIAGGI'S AD HOC COMMITTEE ON NORTHERN IRELAND.

HIS INFORMATION WAS EXACTLY OPPOSITE; THE TAOISEACH'S STAND HAD DIMINISHED SUPPORT FOR MR. BIAGGI'S COMMITTEE TO THE EXTENT THAT ONLY THREE PEOPLE TURNED UP FOR ITS LAST MEETING.

JEREMY CAMPBELL, SPEAKING FROM WASHINGTON LAST NIGHT, SAID THAT THE INFORMATION ON WHICH HIS ARTICLE WAS BASED HAD BEEN SUPPLIED BY CONGRESSMAN BIAGGI'S OFFICE, "AND HE HAD NO REASON TO LIE." IT WAS, HE UNCLASSIFIED

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CLAIMED, A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD THAT 105 CONGRESSMEN WERE MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE.

MR. CAMPBELL REFUSED AN IRISH PRESS REQUEST TO WRITE A SPECIAL ARTICLE FOR THIS PAPER ON THE AD HOC COMMITTEE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE LYNCH VISIT, OR EVEN TO DEAL SPECIFICALLY WITH DR. FITZGERALD'S CRITICISMS IN A LETTER. HE WAS "SNOWED UNDER" WITH WORK AND WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF WRITING A BOOK, HE SAID.

SINCE HIS ARTICLE APPEARED, HE ADDED, HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY THE IRISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND HAD BEEN INVITED OUT TO LUNCH ON FRIDAY. END QUOTE. SHANNON

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